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the organized farmer

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No. 3

Consumer Costs Could Climb As Producer Numbers Dwindle

The cost-price squeeze hitting farmers could eventually result in unreasonably high consumer food prices, the Farmers' Union of Alberta believes.

This view was contained in the annual F.U.A. submission to the Alberta Cabinet on January 20th.

The F.U.A. delegation stated that, "Instability of income coupled with depressed prices, is the real problem facing our farmers." The official F.U.A. view, as put forth in its brief, is that there is real danger facing consumers of large operators taking control of agricultural production, and by means of monopoly control, causing future food prices to rise.

The F.U.A. group presented statistics to back up their contention that farmers can not go on much longer producing "more and more for less and less." For instance, egg prices received by producers have dropped 34 per cent in a year. Because producers have a large investment in their farms they cannot afford to stop producing, so they try to hold their

own by producing more. "The results are more work, more cost, more production, and a drop in total returns."

The F.U.A. recommends that more attention be paid to finding ways of improving methods of marketing. The 25,000 member farm organization asked for changes to marketing legislation which would help farmers to help themselves, by using central selling agencies and marketing boards. The ultimate aim would be to increase the farmers' bargaining power, and keep many smaller farm operators in business. This would slow down the gradual takeover of farm production by larger and larger concerns.

To Raise Economy

The brief points out that the presently depressed state of agricultural prices means that Alberta is not as prosperous as it could, and should be.

F.U.A. president, Paul Babey, with members of the F.U.A. board of directors voiced the opinion that agriculture deserves more than the 1% of Alberta's annual budget

presently allotted to it since agriculture accounts for almost 25% of Alberta's annual production.

The F.U.A. delegation suggested that the government consider an

BRIEF TO GOVERNMENT

Farm Produce Marketing Studies Sought by F.U.A.

Twenty farmers strode into the executive chambers of the Legislative Buildings in Edmonton January 20, to lay before the Provincial Government the Farmers' Union of Alberta annual Pre-sessional Brief. The delegation consisted of FUA President Paul Babey and members of the FUA Provincial Board of Directors, including FWUA representatives.

This fifteen page document contains comment on many of the concerns voiced by farmers during the past year, and at the recent FUA Annual Convention. And it suggests some solutions proposed by the FUA for Government consideration.

Central theme of the brief this year is the increasingly serious

increased expenditure directed entirely at improving Alberta's agricultural marketing machinery because improvements in this sector would benefit the whole economic picture of the province.

"We fully agree that increased and efficient production is essential, but this has not proven to be the solution to the farm problem," the brief emphasized.

The FUA maintains that better marketing methods must be found if the agricultural industry is to regain its health.

F.U.A. Wants Vote Change

Dissatisfaction with voting regulations which govern the setting up of a farm produce marketing boards was expressed by the Farmers' Union of Alberta in its annual brief to the provincial government.

Present regulations require at least 51% of all eligible producers to vote in favour before any marketing board plan can be put into operation.

The F.U.A. feels that only votes of those producers concerned enough to vote on the marketing board proposals, should be considered. At present, anyone eligible to vote in such a plebiscite, but who doesn't bother to, is counted as opposed. The F.U.A. is asking the government to amend its Marketing Act voting requirements so that a marketing plan could be implemented if 66% of those voting were in favour.

Marketing boards to handle the sale of farm produce are being proposed by farm organizations all across Canada as a means of putting increased bargaining power in the hands of the average farmer. Farmers who depend on large wholesale or chain store outlets for their food production often find it difficult to do anything but accept the prices offered, no matter how low these might be.

this production, while retaining for the producer a fair return for his efforts."

Courageous Leadership Urged By F.U.A. In Federal-Provincial Talks

A plea for courageous leadership in the solving of nation-wide agricultural problems was handed to the Alberta Government Janu-

Presenting its annual brief to the provincial cabinet, the Farmers' Union of Alberta voiced its view that agricultural problems require solutions which involve both provincial and federal levels of government.

"Because of the importance of agriculture in the provincial economy, (accounting for almost 25% of Alberta income) we urge that the Province provide courageous leadership in the federal-provincial discussions which frequently take place on these matters," the F.U.A. brief petitioned.

Legislation Needs Overhaul

A complete overhaul of the Alberta Farm Machinery Act has been called for by the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

In its annual brief to the provincial government, the F.U.A. outlined several major complaints about loop-holes in the present legislation.

Inadequacy of spare part stocks, and losses caused by breakdown of faulty equipment during busy seasons have given rise to a great many complaints by farmers. The F.U.A. is requesting that changes to the farm machinery act should make mandatory such things as new equipment guarantees good for a specified period of time, guarantee on used machinery, use of a statutory form for sales contracts, refund on machines which do not live up to specifications, and government inspection of spare part stocks to make sure adequate stocks of acceptable quality are available to customers.

VULCAN, LACOMBE, MINBURN AREAS PICKED FOR FIRST CROP INSURANCE

The Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation has announced location of three test areas in which all-risk insurance is to be offered this year. These are the Vulcan area in southern Alberta, taking in the region from Nobleford to north of Vulcan; the Lacombe area in central Alberta, running from Blackfalds to north of Ponoka, and the Minburn area in northeastern Alberta, extending from Ranfurly to Vermilion. Each test area has about 25 townships and from 900 to 1500 farmers.

The announcement was made by J. M. McKay of Brant, chairman of the Alberta Crop Insurance Corporation, while addressing the annual meeting of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture in Red Deer on January 13.

Mr. McKay said that these areas had been selected in order to provide a wide diversity of farming conditions and because of general interest in crop insurance shown by farmers.

Rates to Vary

Rates, which are now being finalized, will vary not only between districts but from one farm to another, depending on soil type, long-time average yields and hail risk. One-quarter of the farmers, of the farm land in each test area must take part if the program is to become operative in the area.

Look at Needs Of Community

All railways in Canada should be operated as public utilities! This position was set forth in the Farmers' Union of Alberta brief to the Alberta Government.

The Federal Government should develop an overall transportation policy, the F.U.A. brief maintained. It called upon the Provincial

Mr. McKay told Federation of Agriculture delegates that this year only wheat, oats and barley would be insurable, but it is expected that other crops can be added in the future.

This is the first year that crop insurance has been available in Alberta under a joint federal-provincial program. The two governments will share equally all the administration, operating and selling expenses. In addition, the federal government will pay one-fifth of the total premiums.

Good Protection

Coverage for wheat will range to a high of \$20.60 per acre for a crop sown on summerfallow on the best soil in the Lacombe area. The premium will range down to less than a dollar an acre.

In the Minburn area top coverage for wheat will be \$18.10 an

acre. At Vulcan protection will run up to \$17.50 per acre.

Mr. McKay said he hoped that at least 1500 farmers would sign

up for crop insurance this year. If the program gains wide acceptance it will be extended into other districts next year.

Education, Health and Welfare Major Items in F.W.U.A. Brief

During the morning of January 20, the Farm Women's Union of Alberta presented its annual pre-sessional brief to the provincial government. Concerned mainly with matters of health, education and welfare, the farm women's brief suggests the school leaving age be raised to 16 years, university residence fees be lowered, as near to \$60 a month as possible, that the Hall Commission report on medical services be implemented with out delay, and among other items, that flashing red lights be placed on all locomotives in an attempt to cut down on the number of level crossing accidents.

The F.W.U.A. brief expresses concern that among causes of juvenile delinquency and crime is lack of education. And because the unemployment rate of young men is twice as high as that of older workers, the F.W.U.A. feels steps must be taken at once to curb the number of school drop-outs.

The F.W.U.A. suggests that by raising the school leaving age to 16 years, unless the student has completed grade ten or vocational training, the number of drop-outs would be reduced. Present mini-

mum school leaving age is 15 years.

One practical reason put forward why the present school leaving age should be changed is that a 15-year-old cannot obtain a driver's license. Farm workers, as well as many other types of workers, must be able to drive a truck. This fact automatically reduces the young person's chances of employment, the F.W.U.A. points out.

**F.U.A. Provincial
Curling
Championship
March 9-10-11, 1965**

Canadian Grain Trade Had Unique YEAR

Report by The Canadian Wheat Board to the Annual Meeting,
Farmers Union of Alberta, Edmonton, December 10, 1964
Review of the 1963-64 Crop Year

The crop year 1963-64 was unique in the history of the Canadian Grain Trade in that two basic records were broken, one in the field of production and the other in the field of export demand. Coincident with this, other records were established in other segments of the grain industry.

Production

Production of wheat last year in Canada reached an unprecedented volume of 723 million bushels which, added to a carry-over of 486 million bushels from the previous crop year, resulted in a record supply position of 1.2 billion bushels available for export, domestic usage and carry-over. The grades produced were predominantly the milling grades of wheat and the average protein content was 14.3% which was .4% higher than the previous crop year and .7% higher than the average of the past 35 years.

Exports and Domestic Utilization

Exports of wheat and flour amounted to 595 million bushels which was 188 million bushels higher than the previous record of 407 million bushels established in 1929. Domestic consumption of wheat has been estimated at 154 million bushels. Therefore, exports and domestic utilization accounted for 749 million bushels of wheat, or 26 million bushels more than the record breaking crop.

The largest single importer of Canadian wheat and flour last year was, of course, the Soviet Union. Including the 18 million bushels diverted to Cuba, the Soviet Union purchased and paid for, in cash, 250 million bushels of wheat and wheat/flour. The second largest customer was the United Kingdom which imported 91 million bushels — 14 million bushels more than in the preceding crop year. Japan ranked as Canada's third largest customer, having taken 50 million bushels — up 5 million from 1962-63. China was fourth with purchases of 41 million bushels compared to 56 million bushels in the previous year, or a decline of 15 million bushels. Germany stood fifth with purchases of 37 million bushels — 9 million bushels more than in 1962-63. These five countries purchased 469 million bushels among them, or approximately 79% of the total Canadian exports of wheat and flour during the past crop year.

In addition to these "Big Five" customers there were eight countries that purchased between 5 and 15 million bushels of Canadian wheat. These included Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Venezuela, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, and France. Of these countries only one — France — purchased less Canadian wheat during the last crop year than in the previous crop year. French purchases dropped from 6.8 million bushels to 5.0 million bushels. Total purchases by these countries amounted to 73.1 bushels, or 12% of the total Canadian exports.

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the organized farmer

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The five largest customers bought 79% of the wheat, the next eight bought 12% and the remaining 9 was purchased by 82 countries and territories.

Oats and Barley

The production of oats and barley, though not of record proportion, was at a high level in 1963. A fact almost lost sight of in the spectacular year for wheat was that yields of oats and barley were the highest of the past two decades.

Oat supplies for 1963-64 were particularly large, amounting to 603 million bushels. This was the largest total supply of oats in the past twenty crop years. Heavy domestic usage of oats, however, resulted in supplies at July 31st, 1964 being increased by only approximately 30 million bushels above the carryover of a year earlier. Oats exports in the 1963-64 crop year amounted to 18 million bushels. Though this quantity was not large it does compare favourably with our oats exports of the past few years. The Netherlands continued to be Canada's biggest customer for oats, having purchased 8.4 million bushels, almost half of the total oats exports. Other oats exports were confined principally to western European countries and the U.S.A.

Canadian domestic disappearance of barley was at a normal level in 1963-64. This, together with barley exports of approximately 42 million bushels, took care of the equivalent of all but 27 million bushels of the 1963 production, the carryover stocks at the year-end increasing by this amount to 117 million bushels. This is close to the average year-end stock position for barley of the past ten years. Canada's exports of barley in the past year regained some of the ground lost in the previous year. Barley exports to China amounted to 15 million bushels. Japan re-entered the market after a lapse of four years, purchasing 3.6 million bushels. Czechoslovakia took 3 million bushels, the first purchase in eight years. The United States increased its purchases of Canadian barley to 8.7 million bushels — up from the 2.2 million bushels imported from Canada in the previous crop year, while the United Kingdom, a regular customer of Canadian barley, bought 9.5 million bushels.

It is significant to note that even with these large supplies of oats and barley the Board's selling quotations gradually strengthened throughout the crop year. During 1963-64 the prices of feeding grades of barley increased by approximately 10 cents per bushel and higher grades of barley by 15 cents per bushel. The gradual increase in the Board's selling prices for oats during the year, though less significant than barley, was also noteworthy. Prices at July 31st, 1964, were 3 to 4 cents per bushel higher than they were a year earlier.

Internal Grain Movement

The mammoth export movement of wheat and substantial movement of coarse grains was reflected throughout Canada by the largest internal movement of grain this country has ever seen. Western farmers marketed a record of 570 million bushels of wheat during the 1963-64 crop year which was approximately 30 million bushels larger than the previous record established during the 1952-53 crop year. Rail shipments of all grains from country elevators to terminal positions reached an all-time high of 770

million bushels. Though lake shipments of grain from Fort William/Port Arthur at 442 million bushels was slightly below the all-time record set in 1944-45, wheat clearances at 346.3 million bushels established a new record of 20 million bushels above the previous high.

Grain handling at export terminals reached all-time records, with the exception of the Atlantic ports. At the Atlantic port terminals the handlings amounted to 54 million bushels which were exceeded only during the war years when shipments from the St. Lawrence River were curtailed. West coast clearances of all grains during the last crop year totalled 225.9 million bushels — 38 million bushels higher than the previous record. Last January the 24.7 million bushels of export grain handled at West Coast ports set a new monthly record.

Churchill clearances amounted to 22.9 million bushels, a new record, and St. Lawrence River terminals cleared 287.8 million bushels — also a record.

Quotas, while not completely open, reached a level high enough to allow most producers in Western Canada to deliver all the milling wheat they wished to deliver.

Delivery Quotas

Related to this mammoth grain movement was the quota position. While quotas were not completely opened they did reach a level of 8 bushels per specified acre with a supplementary quota of 10 bushels per seeded acre for wheat other than durum. The level was high enough to allow most producers to market all the wheat, excepting durum, they wished to deliver. The reason for a supplementary quota on wheat, other than durum, was a strong market demand for such wheat and there is a worldwide surplus of durum wheat. Furthermore, supplies of oats and barley in country elevators were more than adequate to meet market requirements.

Durum Wheat

It is necessary to comment separately on durum wheat since the demand and supply situation for this type of wheat is so completely different from the demand and supply for wheat used for flour milling purposes. Three years ago supplies of durum wheat were virtually exhausted and the Board rationed available supplies to its regular customers. This situation has now completely reversed itself. As a result of three abnormally large crops of durum wheat available supplies this crop year, including this year's harvest of 33.7 million bushels, total approximately 100 million bushels. The average export of durum wheat for the past five years has been 23 million bushels. Domestic utilization of durum is estimated at 3 million bushels annually for a total annual disappearance, export and domestic, of about 26 million bushels. Therefore, on the basis of existing supplies, there is sufficient durum wheat to meet all market requirements for about the next four years if not a single bushel of this variety of wheat is produced.

Market Outlook 1964-65 Crop Year

While exports of wheat and flour are obviously going to decline this year, nevertheless a fairly good volume of exports is anticipated. The decline in exports will be largely accounted for by the Soviet Union will not repeat its large purchase of a year ago. Indications are that crops in the Soviet Union were good this year. However, they have purchased 10.6 million bushels of wheat and flour and there is a possibility they may require more for the eastern areas of Russia, to be shipped from Vancouver to Vladivostok.

Looking at the other four of the "Big Five" Customers of last year, sales to the United Kingdom should be fairly well maintained at the 90 to 95 million bushel level because the United Kingdom had a good high quality wheat crop which encourages a greater use of domestic wheat, less imported fillers and more Manitobas to sustain quality. While Japan has increased its wheat production this year from the very low levels

of a year ago, any major decline in this market is not expected. China has already purchased 37 million bushels of wheat for shipment in the first six months of the crop year. Sales to Germany will likely decline somewhat from the relatively high level of 38 million bushels of a year ago. This will come about as a result of improved crop quality conditions in that country and the possibility of larger imports from its Common Market partners.

In the case of the eight medium-size customers, namely Belgium, Poland, Switzerland, Venezuela, the Philippines, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia and France, there will likely be some decline in sales to Belgium and France. Sale to Czechoslovakia and Poland will be greater than last year, while sales to Bulgaria will be lower. The crop in Switzerland was very good and some decline in sales in this market is expected. It is hoped that the market for Canadian wheat in Venezuela and the Philippines will continue to grow.

Government aid programmes to underdeveloped countries are important to exports of wheat and flour. In the current crop year wheat sales under Government aid programmes have been completed with India and Pakistan and flour sales to British Guiana, Burma and Ceylon.

In the case of barley it is anticipated that there will be a fairly substantial export movement, particularly out of West Coast ports. There is a shortage of high quality malting barley and a ready market exists for this type of grain, both domestically and in the United States. The Board does not foresee barley as being a troublesome grain from the standpoint of excessive supplies. The domestic market for barley continues to grow and, unless the trend toward a lower acreage seeded to this grain is reversed, problems could develop in providing sufficient barley supplies for the Canadian domestic market.

In the case of oats, there was a large carryover at the beginning of the current crop year due to the bumper crop of the preceding year. While the export outlook for this grain is very uncertain, export possibilities could develop later in the crop year.

Conclusion

In concluding this document recognition must be given to those individuals who made the crop year such a successful one. While members of the Board and its officials are extremely pleased that it was possible to export such a large volume of wheat last year, they are nevertheless perfectly aware that this was made possible first of all by the fact that you, as producers, produced a bumper crop of high quality wheat and delivered it to the country elevators; by the fact that your country elevator agents loaded and dispatched the grain to the terminals; by the fact that railroad workers and management did a tremendous job of moving the grain forward to terminal positions; by the fact that terminal owners and operators took extraordinary measures to maximize the flow of grain through the terminals; by the fact that lake vessel operators and owners co-operated with the Board in maximizing the movement of grain down the Great Lakes; by the fact that the Canadian flour mills doubled their output of export flour, and also

HUTTERITE STUDY

At its presentation to the Alberta cabinet, the Farmers Union of Alberta reported its intention to begin a pilot study of at least three Hutterite colonies. The object is to present a factual report to the next F.U.A. convention, so that meaningful policy toward Hutterites can be adopted by the farm organization.

To this end, the F.U.A. is asking for co-operation from interested government departments. The F.U.A. also requests that government representatives should be more willing to participate, if only in an advisory capacity, at any future meetings considering farmer-hutterite relations.

Rural Rate Threat

In its presentation to the provincial cabinet, the F.U.A. once more took up the issue of public versus private power. The recently proposed Ardley project also come in for discussion.

Interest in the Ardley scheme by several Alberta cities stems from their concern to provide adequate service to their citizens at the lowest possible cost, the F.U.A. maintains in its brief.

"If the Ardley project is carried through," states the F.U.A., "over half of the province's population will have the benefits of a publicly owned system. It will result in the remaining less densely populated areas carrying the full cost of the three private systems."

Truth-in-Lending Sought by F.U.A.

Full disclosure of interest rates on credit purchases would not be a detriment to business, claims the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

In its submission to the provincial government, the F.U.A. urged that "truth-in-lending" legislation be enacted in Alberta.

"The borrowing of money from any financial institution is a service, and any consumer should be entitled to know the cost of this service," the F.U.A. contends. If interest disclosures did prevent some business transactions, the F.U.A. feels it can only be concluded that such deals should not take place at all!

by the fact that the private exporters worked with our customers to efficiently complete the movement of grain from your farms to overseas markets.

Finally, recognition must be given to the high degree of co-operation that the Board received from officials of Exportkhleb, the Russian Government Agency responsible for importing grain into that country. They provided three of their senior officials who stayed in Canada for most of the crop year and worked with Board officials to assure that their vessels arrived in time to lift the cargoes of wheat. Had they not done so there might have been a "bunching" of the arrival of ocean vessels and the inherent difficulties in having the right volume of grain in terminal position.

Port Vet's Work Shown On CBC's Countrytime

On the East Coast, mainly at the ports of Saint John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., the Federal Department of Agriculture maintains a staff of veterinary doctors to enforce the regulations governing export and import of agricultural products.

On Saturday, February 13, at 6 p.m. EST, CBC-TV's Countrytime visits these two ports and

follows a port "vet" as he performs his various inspections, and explains the reasons for such strict regulations.

While the veterinary doctors' main interest is keeping out foreign livestock diseases, there are many other items that must be checked as well — freight and cargo, immigrants' baggage, pets, wool and hides, and straw packing.

PAUL BABEY'S IMPRESSIONS PART 7 — Conclusion

Short Stay in Japan - Hop to Hawaii, and Home

After a stay of two days in Taiwan we proceeded on to Japan. Here we found a modern highly industrialized nation. We also found traffic that was impossible to imagine, and carbon monoxide bit down deeply into our lungs. We found their agriculture practices fairly modern, that is to say the application of the small garden tractor as we know it, was

seen in very many of the areas. We visited with some people that were exceptionally well off in agriculture. We saw others perhaps not doing quite so well. We heard much about Kobe Beef, the Japanese have developed a way to feed their animals to get very tender beef. We had heard also some stories about using beer to massage the animals, and not let-

ting the animal stand on its own feet. The Japanese qualified this for us. They said that the animals did stand on its feet, and they fed it a balanced ration, but sometimes about 10 to 30 minutes was spent on massaging the muscles. We had a very pleasant visit with one of the largest flour mills in Japan. It was certainly pleasant to see Canadian wheat was being added to American wheat to improve the quality, and then being milled. I discussed the quality of Canadian wheat — the millers were extremely pleased. They said that there was no other wheat in any country of the world that could match Canadian quality. They did have one complaint though. This was the little stones which are found in Canadian wheat. I happened to pick up a sample while our wheat was being cleaned on a gravity mill. The director of the plant gave me a handful of stones that were coming off the mill. I was quite concerned about this as I think we should do everything possible to retain the high quality of Canadian wheat. I have found out since of course that we have de-stoning equipment to use on any grain that moves out of the Eastern ports. Unfortunately, we have no de-stoning equipment in the Western ports, and as a result, there are

stones going through in our wheat to Japan. Their concern is simply this; the de-stoning machine, while it does almost a 100% job of removing the stones — occasionally lets one get by and when this happens the flour rollers, on a very delicate machine, will be damaged. The millers are quite concerned. I think if we could de-stone all of our wheat, especially that which finds its way to the Japanese market, it would do us a lot of good and it would mean that Canadian wheat would rank even that much higher, and far superior to wheat from any other country. We also had a very pleasant visit at a rapeseed processing mill. While they were not cracking Canadian rape at the time, they were cracking Soya beans for oil. We discussed the future of Canadian Rapeseed and we found that as long as the price compares favorably with other oil crops, the Japanese will continue to crack Canadian Rape. I asked them what we might do, in order that we might improve our rapeseed and the person in charge of the factory suggested that there were two things we should continually strive for: (1) to try and grow as large a kernel as possible (2) to have as high percentage of oil content as is possible. I can understand this because

of course the larger the kernel, and the higher the percentage of oil, the lower the cost of processing can be. Then too, of course they did mention to try and keep the price as low as possible. High-Priced Land It was surprising for us to find that their land prices were worth a lot of money in terms of ours. In small holdings that we visited, areas of just a little more than two acres around the edge of the city which is an industrial area, this land is ready to be bought up by industry, and we found that you could get \$45,000 for an acre. I, of course being a practical Canadian farmer, asked why the Japanese farmers would not sell their land, bank their money and just live off the fat. I was told that the Japanese are different, that traditionally what has been handed down from father to son must continue to be handed down in future years, and largely because of this the people will not sell their land holdings and they continue to farm it and to use it for agriculture. Warm Feet We were taken also to one very modern restaurant where we had a typical Japanese dinner. It was rather odd when I walked in the place, the first thing that I had to do was to take off my shoes. My companions and I walked on (Continued on page 4)

CANDLE-LIGHT DEDICATION

This is in keeping with a request from delegates at the convention for copies of the narration read by Jerald Hutchison for the Jr. F.U.A. Candle Lighting Ceremony. It is made available through the courtesy of Gerald Schuler of F.U. & C.D.A. We the Jr. F.U.A. wish to welcome you to observe the Candle Lighting Service at this time, the 16th Annual Convention of the Farmers' Union of Alberta.

The ceremony will be related to the letters F.U.A. with emphasis on rural youth and farm people in unity in Alberta.

THE FARMER

Have you lived the life of the farmer,
Begun work with the rising sun?
Have you noted the modest income
That was his when the year was done?

Have you sat in the family circle,
Helped plan the crops for a coming need,
And noted the hope eternal
That's part of the farmer's creed?

Have you seen him at work in the furrow,
Shared his joys at the family hearth,
And felt the truth of the saying
That he is the salt of the earth?

Away from the crowded city,
Alone with his flocks and herds,
Refreshed by the winds of heaven
And the music of singing birds?

He finds growth for the soul within him,
Sees life in the o'erturned sod,
And while tilling the crops he has planted
He humbly walks with his God.

The rural youth of Alberta will eventually own and operate the farms of Alberta. They will produce the food and fibre used in the nation and be the guardians of its soil and its rural homes. They will carry forward our rural culture and will further develop the ideals and standards of rural life in Alberta. It is given the rural youth of today to make this land of ours a productive land or an impoverished land; a land of owner-tilled farms and cultured, contented homes, or a land of tenantry and distrust, a land of freedom and peace, or a land of unrest and war.

What problems and responsibilities rest upon the shoulders of the rural youth of today: As think the rural youth of the nation so will the nation increasingly think and become.

There is something about farming and rural life that builds strong, sturdy, self-reliant, independent thinking men and women. As you prepare the soil and sow the seed, cultivate the crops and gather the harvests, feed the cattle, care for their young—as you work in the wind and rain and sunshine, winter's cold and summer's heat—something is put in your soul that makes you understanding and patient, something that makes you stick and follow through, something that enables you to carry responsibility and do things.

There is much hard, physical labor about farming. It is a fight from the start against frost and blighting winds, against droughts and floods, against insect pests and diseases, against low prices and financial loss—things that try the soul. But it is through combat and adversity that youth and normal men and women grow strong.

There is need in the cities for constant renewal from the country, if they are to maintain their numbers, their vitality and make growth. And rural youth fill this need.

All of this indicates the need for unity and understanding not only amongst rural people but all people in Alberta, the nation and the world. We might ask ourselves what are people of the world striving for in this age? Freedom, Fullness, Future, Understanding, Unity, Appreciation, and being 'a part of'.

We as people living in an abundant Alberta have much to be grateful for. However, all people of this province must work hard in order to give all the people equal opportunity, and to ensure a good life for every person young and old.

If we the people of Alberta were to guide ourselves by the Jr. F.U.A. Creed the country and in turn the world would be richer and more wholesome for all people.

I BELIEVE

That honesty and sincerity are the foundation of individual and of community life. "Honesty is spiritual power."

That I would do unto others as I would have them do unto me.

That as a good citizen, I should obey the laws of the land, the regulations of the community in which I live, the rules of any organization of which I am a member. If any of these laws, regulations or rules should prove unwise or harmful, that, as a good citizen, I should work to have them changed.

That I should develop, as far as possible, the gifts which God has endowed me, not for my own selfish advancement, but that I may be more useful to my community, my province, and my country.

May each lighted candle symbolize our dedication to make life richer for all.

* * *

Quotations contained are taken from the poem "The Farmer" and the essay "Rural Youth—the Nation's Hope," by Dr. C. B. Smith.

Stragglers
get caught
in the storm

- Action Slows
- Efficiency Falls
- Stagnation Sets In

Unless . . . we find our
MISSING MEMBERS

HAVE YOU RE-NEWED FOR '65?

Don't wait any longer . . .
use Application Form below:

SORRY I'M LATE!

Please renew my unit membership for the 1964-65 membership year.
(List yourself, wife, and all children between 14-21 years of age)

Name Address Local

PLEASE FIND ENCLOSED \$6.00 IN CHEQUE ☐ MONEY ORDER ☐

Remit to: FARMERS' UNION OF ALBERTA
9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alta.

OPINION

ARDLEY PROJECT MAY MEAN HIGHER FARM POWER COSTS

By Henry Young

Recent developments call for a new look at the whole question of production and distribution of electricity in Alberta.

The new Ardley project, involving a huge power development for the cities of Red Deer, Calgary, and Edmonton would probably be advantageous to these cities, but it would be detrimental to the rest of Alberta.

With tremendous and varied power resources in Alberta, our people should be entitled to further reductions in power rates. To get this, we must have a carefully planned and fully integrated power system on a province-wide basis. Only by avoiding the costs of needless profits, and duplication of officials and transmission lines can we hope to achieve the objectives

of "power at cost" for all Albertans.

Highest Rates

As things stand now, even after paying the whole cost of farm lines, Alberta farmers are charged the highest *quantity* rate for power of any province west of Ontario. This is shown in the following table, the figures taken from the latest rates issued by the various power authorities.

Comparable rates per kilowatt hour are:

MANITOBA:

All power over 150 KWH per month.....1c per KWH

SASKATCHEWAN:

All power over 300 KWH per month.....1c per KWH

ALBERTA:

All power over 400 KWH per month.....1½c per KWH

BRITISH COLUMBIA:

All power 300 to 700 KWH per month 9/10 of 1c per KWH
Basis: 3 KVA transformer, or equivalent.

It would certainly seem as if we are entitled to lower rates for Alberta farmers. But we are more likely to get an increase in rates if half of the people of the province provided for their own needs at actual cost, while the rest of us are left to carry the whole load of the present wasteful system of power production and distribution in Alberta.

It is bad enough to have three private power companies with the inevitable duplication of offices and staff and unnecessary profits.

However, if we add to this the certain duplication of transmission lines caused by the Ardley project, the outlook is grim indeed.

Future Complication

According to the "Financial Post's" "Survey of Industrials", the three power companies operating in Alberta had total net profits in 1963 of \$9,417,483. Our own accountants have estimated that over 10 million dollars per year could be saved to Alberta by a

Provincial Power System. The toll is growing year by year.

Fortunately, the provincial government has the key to the situation. They should act at once to forestall the developing crisis. By setting up a provincial power system, then can provide our cities with the cheap power they need and give a better deal to all. Unified control and full use of all our power resources on a non-profit basis will meet the situation. Nothing else will.

This could be the most important matter confronting Alberta farmers today. Increased rates for power would be a real disaster. The F.U.A. should take a strong and militant stand to get action from the government. We cannot afford to let the people down. As Churchill said, "We must not flag or fail. We must go on to victory."

BABEY'S IMPRESSIONS . . .

(Continued from page 4)

an elevated platform covered with bamboo rugs into the dining area. Upon entering, I found a very low table, about 8 inches high. It struck me immediately; the discomfort that I must suffer while enjoying a Japanese dinner. After considerable mathematics I found there was no alternative—I must get in under this table somehow. I proceeded to do this, lo and behold and much to my surprise I found beneath the little table a hole where you put your feet. When I sat on the chair, just a raised cushion on the floor with an attached back-rest, I found myself very comfortable, even more so than sitting on one of our typical Canadian chairs. The well under the table contained a hot air register where warm air was coming out and continually warming my feet while I enjoyed typical Japanese dinner.

The view out of the window was beautiful. The girls that served us knelt to put our food in front of us. We ate with chopsticks.

Shrimp Served

This was my first experience of drinking soup with chopsticks. You live and learn, and we soon learned that you pick up what you can with the chopsticks and you drink the rest of the soup, and you can really get by wonderfully well. Their dishes were largely fish, some of them very good, and the main course was shrimp—not in the term that we know it, they are much larger and about two or three shrimp in Japan is sufficient for a complete meal.

We had a very good discussion during this lunch with government officials. They, of course, are very interested as to what was happening in China and before we knew it our two hours were gone.

Day Re-Lived

I had always thought in the back of my mind that if I ever had an opportunity to re-live a day, that I would do it without making the same mistakes over again. I realized when we left Tokyo, that this opportunity would soon come about. We had just completed a full day in Tokyo, and this was Thursday. We left the airport at 10 o'clock at night, we were up in the air about five and one half hours. We arrived in Honolulu at 10 o'clock Thursday morning, so that we had to re-live Thursday all over again.

We toured the island and we were much impressed with the crops of Pineapple and sugar cane that are grown. We saw some lovely beef cattle of the hereford type and also a number of dairy establishments.

We had taken time off to go and visit Pearl Harbour and visit the battleship Arizona which was sunk on the fateful morning of

Shades of Adam Smith*

Adam, Adam, Adam Smith,
Listen to what I charged you with!
Didn't you say
In the class one day
That selfishness was bound to pay?
Of all your Doctrine, that was the Pith
Wasn't it, wasn't it, wasn't it, Smith?
And didn't you say, — don't think it funny,
That the greatest thing in the world was money,
And didn't you say, — now please don't shirk,
That the basis of value was human work,
And the Worker must be content with his lot
Being worth precisely just what he got.

Come don't evade it,
Long-winded Scot,
Just whether you said it
Or whether not?
And if you said it, you must confess
You have brought the World to a terrible Mess,
For a hundred years since your grave was made
We've been making Pins and Machines and Trade,
All selfish as Hogs, whether rich as Sin
Or as poor as Rats, — Ah! why begin
To teach us about that fatal Pin.
Smith, come up from under the sod
Tell me what did you do with God?
You never named Him, I understand,
You called Him (Book LV) an invisible hand:
You gave Him the system all geared and speeded
With none of His interference needed.
It wasn't worthy a man of your size,
Smith, — come up and apologize.

—Stephen Leacock

* Adam Smith (1723-1790) was a professor of logic, and moral philosophy at the Edinburgh University during the 18th century. His theories, as set down in his famous "Wealth of Nations" such as the division of labour, etc., have formed the basis for the free enterprise economic system.

December 7th. The ship is still lying in the Harbor — elapsed time is quite evident as the portions of the ship that are above the water are rusting away, — very sorrowful sight to read on the memorial that 1100 men went down with the ship and are still entombed with her. After 22 years of lying in the Harbor, oil is still flowing out of the battleship to float on top of the water.

This pretty well concluded the journey for the different countries that we visited. We then hopped over to the United states

and in to Vancouver. We were an extremely tired, but a happy group to be back in Canada, looking forward to joining our families once again.

We arrived just in time for the first snow.

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ATTENTION JUNIOR MEMBERS

The Junior F.U.A. is again sponsoring their annual provincial debating contest. Entries for this competition close March 13, 1965.

Any two young people between the ages of 14 and 27 years who are members of the FUA, FWUA, or Junior FUA may enter as a team.

The province will be divided in three regions for the debates.

1. Districts 1 and 2;
2. Districts 3 to 9 inclusive;
3. Districts 10 to 14 inclusive.

Locals entering a team will play off in district competition and the winner from the district will go on to the regional playoffs. The winners from each region will debate at the Junior annual meeting at Gold Eye Lake on July 3rd and 4th, 1965.

We hope all locals will try to get a team to debate. Those entering the contest, please fill out the application form below and return to Central Office by March 13, 1965. Debating rules and procedures will be mailed when applications are received.

CLIP AND MAIL TO:

JR. F.U.A. DEBATING COMPETITION

c/o Farmers' Union of Alberta
9934 - 106 Street, Edmonton, Alta.

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